

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092632
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:MDSTERNBERG:LLC
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PM/SAS:ASKOCHANEK
S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 092632

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR IS US

SUBJECT: U.S./ISRAEL CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON DEFENSE EXPORTS

1. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN PLANNING FORMATION OF U.S.-
ISRAELI CONSULTATIVE GROUP TO DEAL WITH ISSUES REGARDING
COPRODUCTION AND ISRAELI EXPORTS OF U.S. DEFENSE ARTICLES
AND ARTICLES CONTAINING U.S. PARTS OR TECHNOLOGY.
FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF FIRST MEETING APRIL 15 OF GROUP IS FOR
YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY. MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO THREE SUB-
STANTIVE ISSUES:

-- WE INTRODUCED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GROUP FOR
ISRAELI CONSIDERATION. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE ESTABLISH
THE GROUP AS A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS,
PLANS AND PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE EXPORT OF U.S. ORIGIN
DEFENSE ARTICLES AND THE REEXPORT OF ISRAELI PRODUCED
DEFENSE ARTICLES INCORPORATING U.S. ORIGIN TECHNOLOGY OR
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COMPONENTS. THEY ALSO PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH THE OPPORTUNITY
TO INTRODUCE SPECIFIC REQUESTS TO TRANSFER TO THIRD
COUNTRIES DEFENSE ARTICLES OF U.S. ORIGIN OR ISRAELI MANU-
FACTURED ITEMS CONTAINING U.S. PARTS OR TECHNOLOGY.

-- ISRAEL ASKED US FOR OUR APPROVAL OF KFIR SALES TO
AUSTRIA AND A LIST OF COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY COULD EXPORT

KFIR. WE UNDERTOOK TO STUDY THESE ISSUES.

-- WE TOLD ISRAEL THAT WE HAVE POLICY OBJECTIONS TO THE SALE OF THE GABRIEL MISSILE--WHICH INCORPORATED SOME U.S. COMPONENTS--TO SOUTH AFRICA AND COULD NOT AGREE TO SUCH A SALE. THE ISRAELIS UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THIS TO THEIR GOVERNMENT.

2. WE EXPECT TO MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND HOPE TO HAVE AT THAT TIME AN ISRAELI APPROVAL OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND A RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCH ON THE GABRIEL. WE BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONVEY TO ISRAEL AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP OUR DECISION ON THE KFIR SALE TO AUSTRIA. A DRAFT DECISION MEMO ON SALE OF KFIR TO AUSTRIA HAS BEEN PREPARED AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT POLICY-LEVEL APPROVAL WILL RESULT. WE WILL, HOWEVER, HAVE PROBLEMS WITH BROADER ISRAELI REQUEST WHICH AMOUNTS TO OFFERING A SALES TERRITORY FOR THE KFIR.

3. PRESENT AT FIRST MEETING WERE: U.S. SIDE: PM - GELB (CHAIRMAN); NEA - ATHERTON; ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOD/ISA - MC;IFFERT. ISRAELI SIDE: MINISTER (OF EMBASSY) BAR-ON; HEAD ISRAELI DEFENSE SUPPLY MISSION CIECHANOVER.

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